

and humanity he taught us both in his writings, in his personal life of honor, and in his public service.

Bob's wife Anne passed away in 1990, and I remember him writing that after she died he went to bed and "touched the pillow where the moonlight and the memory fused and whispered, 'Much ado about nothing, old girl'—and went to sleep." Hadassah and I extend our condolences to his family, the Register, and the entire community. We will miss you, Bob.●

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LIFE GROUP OF VERMONT

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I would like to recognize the National Life Group of Vermont for the impact this company is having in the field of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental stewardship in my State of Vermont. National Life, a Fortune 1000 financial services and insurance firm based in Montpelier, is actively moving forward with a significant solar project at its headquarters.

National Life announced in May that it will install 240 300-watt solar panels on the roof of its Montpelier headquarters. This will be one of the largest, if not the largest, solar electric installations in Vermont. The solar panels are expected to be installed and running by September, and they estimate that the system will generate 77,767 kilowatt-hours a year. The 72 kW Photovoltaic, PV, system will generate enough electricity to power 13 average Vermont homes.

The \$500,000 project will be financed in part through a \$200,000 grant from the State of Vermont's Clean Energy Development Fund, which is administered by the Department of Public Service.

National Life has contracted Solar Works of Montpelier to handle the installation. Solar Works is the leading solar electric systems provider in the Northeast.

National Life is also working on a separate proposal to install a solar hot water system at the building. Both solar projects are part of a larger plan, begun 5 years ago, to transform the company's Montpelier headquarters into a "green" campus. An important plan objective will be realized at the end of 2008, when the company expects to win a coveted LEED certification. LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. Impressively, experts say LEED certification for National Life's headquarters would be the first for a 50-year-old facility anywhere in the Nation.

Tom MacLeay, the CEO of National Life, has driven this entire green initiative. A Vermont native who has worked at National Life for 32 years, Tom recently announced that he would be retiring at the end of this year. It is certainly worth noting that the com-

pany's commitment to environmental leadership is a testimony to his vision of the ways in which business can help achieve a secure environmental future for this Nation.

Solar is not the only area in which National Life has shown its environmental stewardship. Every 10 days National Life sends its shredded paper to Fairmont Farms, a dairy farm in East Montpelier, to be used as bedding for the cows and mixed into fertilizer for the fields. In 2007 they recycled 64 percent of their waste, including paper, plastic, shredded material, aluminum, metal, food composting, and computer equipment.

In 2007 National Life transformed the offices of its Human Resources Department into a showcase for leading-edge green technology, using carpet with no volatile organic compounds, VOC, occupancy sensors, glass walls and automatic window blinds that allow light to pass through while keeping the heat out in the summer and the cold out in the winter. The new lighting technology put in place at its headquarters—with fixtures that are 95 percent efficient compared to the 50-percent efficiency of existing fixtures—will cut the company's electric bill in half.

The company's Alternate Transportation Program offers incentives such as free bike tuneups, gas cards, free bus passes, and shoe discounts for those who carpool, bike, use bus service, or walk or run to and from work.

These accomplishments are not just environmentally sound, they illustrate smart business decisions. By reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, Vermont Life is cutting its electric bills and saving serious money too. And by pushing the boundaries of what can be done, it is setting an example for other companies.

What they are accomplishing with solar energy in Vermont, which is not a particularly sunny State, demonstrates what is possible to achieve right now if the will is there to carry it through.

Mr. President, I look forward to the day when renewable energy and conservation have become so commonplace in our society that they are no longer looked upon as being unusual or path-breaking but are seen as totally ordinary, a normal part of the landscape. When that day comes, and I believe that it will, we will be able to look back to a handful of environmentally aware companies, such as National Life, that helped show us the way toward our sustainable energy society.●

HONORING RAYE'S MUSTARD MILL

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize a small business from my home State of Maine whose roots spring from both our State's seafaring heritage and agricultural legacy. Raye's Mustard Mill in Eastport has long provided locals with the perfect

condiment to top almost any meal from the once traditional sardine to the timeless summer classic of burgers and hot dogs.

Raye's Mustard, founded in 1900 by J. Wesley Raye, has been operating at its current location in Eastport, America's easternmost city, since 1903, when a young Wes Raye decided to move out of the family smokehouse and into a more commercially viable location. When the company's mustard was first produced, it provided the perfect complement to the sardines being caught and consumed by Maine fishermen. While times have changed, Raye's mustard has consistently remained a Maine culinary staple. It has continued to accompany new dishes while it is still made using many of the same techniques that Mr. Raye employed over 100 years ago. Indeed, Raye's is the only remaining traditional stone ground mustard mill in America, and the firm uses a time-honored cold grind method for preparing its product, slowly grinding mustard seeds and other ingredients together using massive pieces of stone.

Raye's distinctive technique has succeeded in producing numerous award-winning mustards that have been recognized by culinary organizations nationwide. Raye's 21 mustard varieties have been featured in publications, including "Martha Stewart Living" and "Yankee Magazine." With varieties ranging from the Downeast Schooner, Raye's classic yellow mustard; to more innovative flavors, like the spicy Heavenly Jalapeno, the firm has managed to produce mustards to satisfy any palate. Furthermore, its special line of select mustards provide a hint of Maine in every jar, as the company has partnered with local restaurants and breweries to produce signature items such as Raye's Jameson Tavern Style and Raye's Sea Dog Beer Mustard.

While Raye's Mustard is sold in stores regionally and worldwide via the internet, just as unchanging as the mustard itself are the Mustard Mill and The Pantry Store, Raye's on-site retail location. In fact, in 2006, these Eastport institutions garnered the Maine Tourism Association's Down East and Acadia Regional Tourism Award. Tours of the mill give visitors the opportunity to learn about the history of one of the most universal food products in the world and to see first hand the valiant spirit and commitment to quality that have driven Raye's to the impressive heights that it has achieved.

In addition to the respect that I have for Raye's Mustard Mill as a small family-owned business, I also have a great personal esteem for its fourth generation of owners. I have long known Kevin and Karen Raye as friends and colleagues, and I have been particularly pleased to see the successes they have achieved since Kevin left Capitol Hill after serving as chief of staff for many years. It is with great admiration that I wish Raye's Mustard the